



HAWAII STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 23, 2008

Contact: Rep. K. Mark Takai

Phone: 586-8455

LEGISLATORS RECOGNIZE NAVAL STATION PEARL HARBOR FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

NAVSTA Pearl Harbor honored for Invasive Mangrove Clean Up in Aiea Community

Honolulu – Aiea legislators Senator Norman Sakamoto (District 15), Representative Lynn Finnegan (District 32), and Representative K. Mark Takai (District 34) will participate in a legislative recognition ceremony on Thursday, January 24, 2008 at 8:30 a.m. at Rainbow Bay Park to recognize Naval Station Pearl Harbor for their contributions to the Aiea community by undertaking the task of removing the invasive mangroves and debris along the Pearl Harbor Historic Trail. A certificate from the State Legislature will be presented to Captain Taylor Skardon and LT Maria Navarro on behalf of Naval Station Pearl Harbor.

“Ask anyone who utilizes the Pearl Harbor Historic Trail bike path in Aiea, and they will tell you what an eye sore the overgrown mangrove has created, not to mention the heaps of debris, that includes old tires and car parts, that are in the under brush,” stated Takai. “A major clean up was necessary to beautify the area.”

Thanks to a collaborative effort of sailors from Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Navy civilians and contractors, and community volunteers over the years, the invasive mangroves along the bike trail was cleared up. The most recent clean up effort involved a 300-person strong group of volunteers that included sailors representing commands from across Oahu and people from the community that came together on April 7, 2007 to clean up the 13.5-mile historic bike path that runs along Pearl Harbor’s waterfront.

“This is an example of when combined effort and hard work contribute directly to the community by creating safer environment for the good of the residents who live by and use the Pearl Harbor Historic Trail,” stated Sakamoto.

(MORE)

Invasive species, such as mangrove, are non-indigenous species that adversely affect the native plants in the areas they inhabit. Removal of the mangrove is desired to improve security along the bike path, as it is a hiding place for undesirable criminal activity and dumping.

In addition to providing a safer environment, it allows for a better view of historic Pearl Harbor for homeowners in the area and other community members who use the trail or parks in the area. The cleanup effort benefited joggers, bikers and others who use the bike trail, including many of our sailors and their families.

This project is part of an ongoing clean up effort the Naval Station Pearl Harbor has set up to clean up and clear the mangrove along the bike path. The Navy at Pearl Harbor will continue wading through the muddy waters, chopping, cutting and pulling out the mangrove plants to the shore for disposal.

###